



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2007

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MAYOR CONTINUES FULL FRONTAL ATTACK ON MINI-DORMS**

#### ***PROPOSED CHANGES TO LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE POSTED ON CITY'S WEBSITE; PUBLIC INPUT SOLICITED***

#### ***FIVE CITATIONS ALREADY ISSUED AGAINST MINI-DORMS UNDER PILOT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM***

Continuing his fight against the presence of mini-dorms throughout our community, Mayor Jerry Sanders announced that new and detailed information about draft regulations to address the issue are now available for review on the City's website. The language for the draft regulations and electronic maps of the campus impact and beach impact areas can be viewed through the mini-dorm link at [www.sandiego.gov/development-services](http://www.sandiego.gov/development-services). The Mayor encourages all San Diegans to review these documents and voice their opinions on them. The San Diego City Council is scheduled to consider these proposed amendments on July 9, 2007.

"This issue is of tremendous importance to our community and I believe that their opinions are critical. My compliments to Councilmember Madaffer for everything he's done to protect the character of the neighborhoods affected by these operations. He has done a great job in moving these new regulations forward. By giving everyone access to information about the regulations through the City's website we are all going to be better prepared and ready to discuss the mini-dorm issue at Council."

**Mayor Jerry Sanders**

"Mini dorms" are single dwelling units occupied by multiple adults, usually in campus and beach areas. The issue has become a topic of controversy in San Diego and the new regulations are being proposed to address the adverse impacts caused by this use.

“This is a complex problem that cannot be solved by the City alone,” said Mayor Sanders. “It requires cooperative participation by responsible landlords and tenants, local colleges and universities, and communities interested in protecting the character of their single dwelling unit neighborhoods,” he said

#### **WEB INFORMATION PART OF BROAD OUTREACH EFFORT**

“Public review of the draft regulations is an important step in this review process,” said Mayor Sanders. “We need to hear as many voices and opinions as possible to make sure that we making the changes best suited for our neighborhoods and for the students looking for affordable housing,” he said.

In this current information effort, the City’s Development Services Department is utilizing a new, more efficient electronic process to notify interest groups and affected neighborhoods of the draft proposals. On May 9, an “email blast” was sent to a large distribution list, including all parties who have contacted the City about the issue, as well as the affected Community Planning Groups and City advisory groups. The email included details on the proposal and a direct link to the web information. This new broader communication effort was developed during the Development Services Business Process Reengineering study, which recommended ways to improve efficiencies in the Department’s service delivery efforts.

#### **PILOT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED IN ADVANCE OF NEW REGULATIONS**

Beginning on April 30, the City’s Police Department and Neighborhood Code Compliance team began issuing fines to mini-dorm operators violating basic zoning regulations. Five \$1000 fines have been issued as part of this Mid-City Division Administrative Citation Proposal Pilot Program.

The Pilot Program was created to give officers an additional tool to mitigate disturbances, specifically in situations where officers have been denied access to a party house, or where tenants have refused to answer the door. Tenants and owners are held financially accountable for noise complaints and the chronic quality of life issues they create. The Pilot Program was presented at the Land Use and Housing Committee on March 7, 2007 and will return to that Council Committee in November for review.

#### **DEPARTMENT OFFICES OFFERING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Anyone interested in the min-dorm issue is encouraged to review the information online. Maps of impacted areas may also be viewed at the Development Services Department 3<sup>rd</sup> floor DPI assistance counter at 1222 First Ave downtown. The Department’s zoning specialists can also be reached by calling (619) 446-5000.

The draft environmental document associated with the new regulations will be available for public review and comment from May 10 through May 24, 2007. Additional information on that document can be found at <http://clerkdoc.sannet.gov/Website/publicnotice/pubnotceqa.html>.

